



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### News Release

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### **Hawaii's Unemployment Rate Remains Below the National Average for the Fifth Consecutive Month**

HONOLULU - For the fifth consecutive month, Hawaii's unemployment rate remains below the national average despite a slight increase in the State's unemployment rate. The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the statewide unemployment rate in April was 3.7 percent, an increase of 0.3 percentage points over March.

This marks an improvement over April 2002, when the unemployment rate stood at 4.4 percent. The statewide labor force in April was comprised of 576,300 employed workers and 22,400 unemployed.

(more)

The bulk of the job losses in April occurred in state government, where employment decreased by 3,100. Most of the job losses came from the Department of Education, where there was a seasonal drop in substitute teachers, casual workers, after school care workers and various support staff. In addition, the private elementary and secondary schools laid off 300 employees, while the waste industry laid off an additional 300 workers.

"We generally see a rise in unemployment during the month of April because of the seasonal drop in staffing in both public and private elementary and secondary schools," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "However, Hawaii's job market continues to show encouraging signs. New jobs were created in the private sector and there were no significant job losses in the visitor industry despite the continued war on terrorism and other world events."

The private sector created 500 new jobs during the month of April. These new jobs came from the professional, scientific, and technical sector; the ambulatory health care services sector; and the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector.

The only visitor-related industry to exhibit any shift in visitor industry employment, was the accommodation sector where

the drop of 200 jobs translated into an over-the-month decrease of  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent.

In comparison to Hawaii's unemployment rate, the national unemployment rate declined from 6.2 percent in March to 5.8 percent in April. "It's also encouraging to see the unemployment rate on the national level continue to decline."

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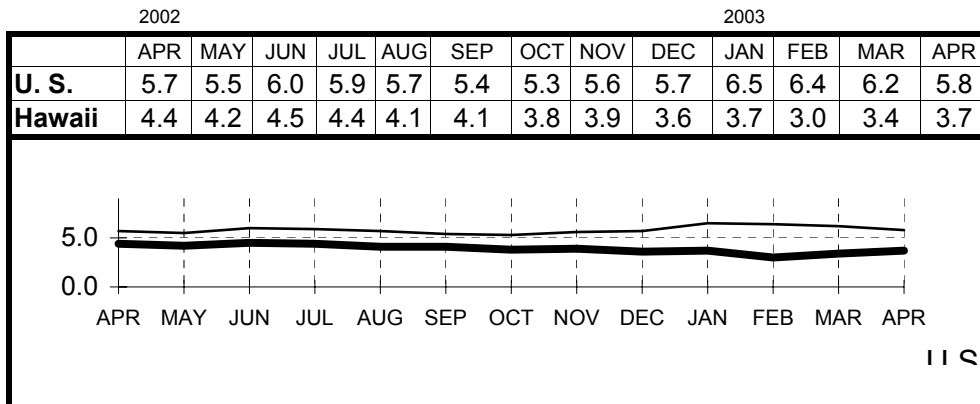
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## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (not seasonally adjusted)

	APR 2003	MAR 2003	APR 2002
<b>STATE</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>HONOLULU*</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>HAWAII COUNTY</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>KAUAI</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>MAUI COUNTY</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Maui Island</b>	3.6	3.4	4.4
<b>Molokai</b>	7.9	8.1	7.6
<b>Lanai</b>	2.6	1.6	3.6
<b>U. S.</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>

\* City & County of Honolulu

## COMPARATIVE RATES - U. S. AND HAWAII



# LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES

April 2003 Report, Statewide

		Apr-03	Mar-03	Apr-02	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO
	(in thousands)				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		598.7	592.3	582.4	6.4
Employed		576.3	572.3	556.7	4.0
Unemployed		22.4	19.9	25.8	2.4
Unemployment Rate		3.7%	3.4%	4.4%	
TOTAL NONFARM		584.5	567.0	546.9	-2.5
Total Private		445.3	444.8	432.4	0.5
Goods Producing		42.3	41.9	40.2	0.3
Service-Providing		522.2	525.1	506.7	-2.9
Natural Resources & Mining & Construction		14.5	14.4	13.1	0.1
Manufacturing		15.1	14.9	15.1	0.2
Durable Goods		3.9	3.9	4.1	0.1
Non-durable Goods		11.1	11.0	11.0	0.1
Trade, Transportation, Utilities		107.6	107.4	105.0	0.2
Wholesale Trade		16.4	16.4	16.2	0.1
Retail Trade		64.1	64.0	62.7	0.1
Food & Beverage Stores		13.0	12.9	12.8	0.1
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores		9.0	8.9	9.0	0.1
General Merchandise Stores		10.7	10.6	10.8	0.1
Transportation, Warehousing & Util		27.0	27.0	26.1	0.1
Utilities		2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0
Air Transportation		9.8	9.9	9.6	-0.1
Transportation & Warehousing		24.3	24.3	23.4	0.0
Information		11.3	11.3	11.6	0.0
Telecommunications		4.4	4.4	4.6	0.0
Financial Activities		28.2	28.1	27.3	0.1
Finance & Insurance		16.2	16.0	15.6	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing		12.0	12.1	11.6	-0.1
Professional & Business Svcs		68.4	68.6	65.4	-0.1
Professional, Scientific, & Tech.		22.2	22.0	21.7	0.2
Management of Companies & Entrpr		6.6	6.6	6.4	0.0
Administrative & Support & Waste		39.6	39.9	37.3	-0.3
Educational & Health Svcs		65.4	65.2	62.6	0.1
Educational Services		12.7	13.0	11.8	-0.2
Elementary & Secondary Schools		6.2	6.5	5.6	-0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance		52.6	52.2	50.7	0.4
Ambulatory Health Care Svcs		21.7	21.5	20.4	0.2
Hospitals		12.8	12.8	12.7	0.0
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities		6.1	6.1	5.9	0.0
Social Assistance		12.0	11.9	11.8	0.1
Leisure & Hospitality		98.4	98.6	96.8	-0.1
Arts & Entertainment, & Recreation		11.2	11.0	10.8	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services		87.2	87.5	86.0	-0.3
Accommodation		36.7	36.9	35.9	-0.2
Food & Drinking Places		50.5	50.6	50.1	-0.1
Full-Service Restaurants		25.9	26.0	25.8	-0.1
Other Services		23.8	23.7	23.7	0.1
Government		119.1	122.2	114.4	-3.1
Federal Government		31.3	31.3	30.1	0.0
Naval Shipyard		6.6	6.6	4.9	0.0
Department of Defense		15.8	15.8	15.7	0.0
State Government		70.9	74.0	67.4	-3.1
State Education (DOE & UH)		47.0	50.0	43.3	-3.0
Local Government		17.0	16.9	17.0	0.0